

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 229

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Charles Jones of the United States Army for his distinguished service during the Vietnam War.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, Charles Jones of Blount County is one such individual, who answered that call during the Vietnam War as a proud member of the United States Army, serving in Company C, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment; and

WHEREAS, on July 2, 1970, Mr. Jones and his company were attacked in what would become known as the Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord; eight members of the unit were killed in action, including Mr. Jones's best friend, Robert Zoller; and

WHEREAS, during the heated battle, Charles Jones was wounded, receiving significant injuries to his face and right shoulder; while recovering at Camp Evans, a Purple Heart Medal was pinned to his chest but never documented in his official military records; and

WHEREAS, to his dismay, Charles Jones never received his award, an egregious oversight that he sought to correct in 2005, when he submitted an application for the Purple Heart Medal that was subsequently denied by the Department of the Army; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, after spending weeks gathering information and evidence, another application for the award for Mr. Jones was submitted by Nathan Weinbaum, Blount County Veterans Service Officer; and

WHEREAS, with the application recently approved by the Department of the Army, Charles Jones finally received his much-deserved Purple Heart Medal during a special presentation ceremony at the Blount County Courthouse held on March 17, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones bravely answered his nation's call and served with honor and distinction throughout his years of military service. It is wholly fitting that we commend his service and extend the gratitude of a grateful State and nation on this august, and long overdue, occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Charles Jones for his service as a member of the United States Army during the Vietnam War on this, the occasion of the presentation of his Purple Heart Medal. We further extend our best wishes for his every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.